## **Sociology of deviance and social problems**

## Prof. Linda Lombi

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

Starting from an analysis of the most significant stages of sociological thought and the concepts deriving from it, the course aims to introduce students to the theoretical approaches of the sociology of discomfort and deviance, in order to provide them with the cognitive tools available to describe and understand the different forms of crime and deviance (both in terms of quantity and quality). Particular attention will also be paid to control policies (prevention, containment, re-education, repression, treatment).

Finally, two specific thematic insights will be developed: the first on the role of theatre as a tool for re-education, the second on youth gangs.

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

* know the foundations and main currents of the sociology of deviance;
* reflect on the main conceptual categories of the discipline;
* critically read social dynamics, with special focus on reading contemporary deviant phenomena;
* know social control tools;
* enhance, in the construction of educational interventions, the tools and results made available by the suggested reading list.

***COURSE CONTENT***

1. *Theoretical paths;*

– The origins: The key points of the Classical School and of Positivism,

– The first half of the twentieth century: From the Chicago School to the functionalist perspective.

* The Sixties: The deviant subcultures and the *“Labelling theory”*.
* From the 1970s to the end of the 20th century: The “critical” theories of social control and social learning
* The 2000s: The current reinterpretation of different approaches

2. *Thematic paths*

* Prison and re-education through theatre
* Youth gangs

***READING LIST***

F. P. Williams, *Devianza e criminalità*, Il Mulino, Bologna, 2002.

B. Pizzetti (2023), *Carcere e rieducazione. Il contributo della pratica teatrale*, FrancoAngeli, Milan.

F. Prina (2019), *Gang giovanili. Perché nascono, chi ne fa parte, come intervenire*, il Mulino, Bologna.

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course is structured into teaching units with study materials that will be made available *online* on the Blackboard platform. The slides and the compulsory essays will form an integral part of the materials for the exam.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The exam consists of an oral interview during which students will have to demonstrate knowledge of information, distinctions and key concepts of the sociology of discomfort and deviance, as well as of the other topics covered in the course. The course will include participation in group activities and ongoing monitoring with some online tools available on the Blackboard platform (tests and/or collection of short papers) to assess the skills acquired; these (optional) activities will be part of in the final score awarded during the exam.

To pass the final exam it is necessary to obtain a minimum score of 18/30. The maximum that can be reached is 30/30. Honors will be awarded to the most deserving exams.

The skill assessment criteria are: knowledge of the topics presented during the course (from 1 to 15 points), presentation clarity (1-5), argumentative relevance (1-5), critical thinking skills (1-5).

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Prerequisites of the course is some basic sociological knowledge concerning its main concepts (society, values, norms, roles, socialisation, culture, etc.).

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG or on the Faculty notice board.